



Fact Sheet

Precision Tracking Space System

The Precision Tracking Space System (PTSS) is a future space-borne sensor of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), designed to track ballistic missiles shortly after launch and throughout their midcourse flight. PTSS will provide sensor data to the BMDS battle manager which will, in turn, send tracking data to deployed Aegis cruisers/destroyers and their on-board interceptor missiles. PTSS enables the early intercept of enemy ballistic missiles and increases the missile raid handling capacity of the BMDS.



With PTSS, the Missile Defense Agency is using a proven acquisition approach – the initial development program is performed by government and military laboratories, followed by a competitive procurement with industry for production. The program also has embedded military service representatives from the Air Force, and soon from the Navy.

PTSS Benefits

- Provides reliable and available ballistic missile tracking capability in the areas of the world of most concern
- Eliminates the need for host nation agreements
- Maintains battlespace awareness with persistent, space-based tracking, even with threats arising from unexpected locations or new adversaries
- Observes and tracks launches beyond the range of airborne and terrestrial sensors

PTSS Program Milestones

- Program Office established – October 2009
- Stood up Air Force Service Cell within the PTSS Hybrid Program Office – August 2010
- Awarded Applied Physics Lab subcontracts with industry for the Manufacturing and Production Readiness Integrated Systems Engineering Team – February 2011
- Completed PTSS System Requirements Review – March 2011

PTSS Outlook

- Risk reduction activities currently underway for the sensor and attitude control assemblies
- Stand up of Navy Service Cell in PTSS Hybrid Program Office estimated mid to late 2011
- Preliminary Design Review scheduled for Fall 2012
- Launch of the first two development satellites planned for Summer 2016

